

Message Text

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS AND UNSYG WALDHEIM COMMENT ON CYPRUS
DEVELOPMENTS

1. UNSYG WALDHEIM ARRIVED IN ATHENS YESTERDAY (JANUARY 16)
AND MET IN THE EVENING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS FOR
APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND A HALF. THIS MORNING HE HAD
MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS AND OTHER MFA
OFFICIALS AND WAS ALSO SCHEDULED TO CALL ON PRESIDENT
TSATSOS. THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL DEPARTS TOMORROW
MORNING FOR VIENNA.

2. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE UNSYG,
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS DESCRIBED THEIR DISCUSSION AS
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"VERY USEFUL". THE SECRETARY GENERAL, HE SAID, HAD BRIEFED
HIM ON HIS TALKS IN ANKARA AND NICOSIA AND HAD TRANSMITTED
TO HIM THE ASSURANCE OF THE TURKISH SIDE THAT IT WILL SOON MAKE
CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
UNTIL THE PROPOSALS PROMISED ON THE TERRITORIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL
QUESTIONS ARE KNOWN, HE COMMENTED, NEITHER OPRIMISM NOR PESSIMISM
IS JUSTIFIED. IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE PROPOSALS TO BE CONCRETE,

HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED, THEY MUST ALSO BE "ACCEPTABLE" WHICH MEANS THEY MUST BE "REASONABLE" AND ABLE TO LEAD TO A JUST SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE NEXT STEP CARAMANLIS REPLIED WE SHOULD WAIT TO SEE THE TURKISH PROPOSALS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS A BASIS FOR A DIALOGUE. IN ANY CASE, THROUGH, HE ADDED THE FACT THE TURKS HAD ANNOUNCED THEY WERE READY TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS SOME "SMALL PROGRESS." HE EMPASIZED THAT THE GOG CATEGORICALLY SEPARATED THE AEGEAN QUESTION FROM THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN. THE DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS COULD ONLY BE DETERMINED, CONCLUDED CARAMANLIS, ONCE THE TURKISH SIDE HAD MADE ITS PROPOSALS WHICH, HE SAID, WALDHEIM EXPECTED TO OCCUR IN 10 - 15 DAYS

4. IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS, UNSYG WALDHEIM EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE "CONSTRUCTIVE" CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER, PRIMARILY ON CYPRUS BUT ALSO ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE HAD BRIEFED THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS TALKS IN ANKARA AND NICOSIA. A NEW SITUATION HAD BEEN CREATED. THE TURKISH SIDE WOULD PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION AND REVISED PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSTITUTION. WALDHEIM REVEALED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH HAD PROMISED TO GIVE HIM THE PROPOSALS FROM THE TURKISH SIDE, UNCLASSIFIED

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FOLLOWING WHICH HE WOULD EXAMINE WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES THE TIMING OF RECONVENING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. WALDHEIM SPOKE OF SEVERAL PAST DISAPPOINTMENTS, BUT IN VIEW OF THE "NEW SITUATION" POINTED TO HIS HOPE THAT THE PARTIES CAN OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES.

5. THE GREEK MEDIA ARE GIVING PRIMARY COVERAGE TO THE WALDHEIM VISIT AND TO THE RELATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS. SO FAR, THE REPORTING HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. MILLS

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